Change in unreserved ticket system

3775. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways has made any change in the unreserved train ticket system;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether passengers have been denied the facility to take ticket earlier than the travelling date;

(d) whether there is any ban to take ticket from a station other than the boarding station; and

(e) if so, whether Railways would get financial benefit from this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) As per recent instructions, unreserved tickets involving journey upto 200 Kilometers are issued upto three days in advance excluding the day of journey.

This change has been made after observing the trend of booking as well as to avoid misuse of short distance unreserved tickets booked much in advance.

(d) No, Sir. Through UTS, passengers can purchase unreserved tickets from the cluster of station in that area for journey commencing from any of these cluster stations to any destination.

(e) No, Sir.

Absence of basic amenities at Gurgaon railway station

3776. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the annual earnings from the Gurgaon railway station in Haryana;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 20,000 passengers use railway station everyday which contributes more than Rs. 60 crores every year; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons that basic amenities have not been provided at this station including the ones promised years back, for *e.g.*, provision for coolies, installation of camera facilities, adequate halt time and state of the art restaurant etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The total earning collected from Gurgaon station in Haryana during 2008-09 is Rs.50.98 crores.

(b) About 14,000 passengers (non PRS) on an average use the railway station every day.

(c) (i) This station has all the minimum essential amenities as per yardstick.

(ii) The process on engagement of new licensed porters and provision of close circuit TV at Gurgaon station is in process.

(iii) At present 14 pairs of Mail/Express and 9 pairs of passenger trains are stopping at Gurgaon station. The duration of halt is 2 and 1 minutes respectively.

(iv) There is no proposal for the present to construct state of art restaurant (Food Plaza) at Gurgaon railway station. However, there are 4 catering stalls and 7 catering trollies functioning at Gurgaon railway station which meet the catering requirements of the passenger.

Attacks on candidates appearing for railway board examinations

3777. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the recent attacks on the candidates appearing for railway board examinations at a few places;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to protect the candidates and prevent such happenings in the future;

(c) whether there is a proposal to give priority to local candidates in group 'C' and other lower level posts in Railways; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to conduct such recruitment exams on all India basis instead of through regional boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is law and order issue. Instructions have been issued to the Zonal Railways to provide adequate security through RPF and local police authorities.

(c) and (d) Recruitment system is under review.

Upgradation of rail track and stations in Jharkhand

3778. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to upgrade single rail track to double rail track in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Government's plan to upgrade the existing railway stations in Jharkhand and how much amount has been earmarked for this during the next one year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) There are following 7 doubling projects in various stages of progress falling fully/partly in the State of Jharkhand:-

1. Barharwa-Tinpahar
2. Chandrapura-Rajabera-Chandrapura-Bhanaridaj
3. Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (Chakradharpur-Bondamunda section)